

a spelling correction has been made in Claim 22. Claim 27 has been amended as supported in the specification at the first sentence of the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8. Finally, Claims 28 and 29 have been amended to be consistent with the amendment to Claim 12.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 12-29 remain pending in the application.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held September 24, 2002, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained the presently-claimed invention and why it is patentable over the applied prior art, and discussed other issues raised in the Office action. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of Claims 12-18, 24, 26-27 and 28-29 as anticipated by U.S. 4,242,403 (Mattimoe et al); and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 13-14 as unpatentable over Mattimoe et al, and of Claims 19-23 and 25 over Mattimoe et al in view of "Admitted Prior Art," are respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as recited in above-amended Claim 12, is drawn to a method of making a anti-laceration automobile side window glazing comprising adhering two sheets of glass adapted to fit an automobile side window with an intercalary adhesive layer, wherein said intercalary adhesive layer has a thickness of more than 0.76 mm.

As disclosed in the specification in the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3, and as pointed out during the above-referenced interview, in an unexpected manner, the present inventors discovered that increase in the thickness of the intercalary adhesive has the effect of reducing the extent of a laceration phenomenon, in which slivers of glass are directed to

occupants in the passenger compartment of an automobile after an impact due to collision, rollover, etc.

While Mattimoe et al disclose various multi-layer automotive glazing embodiments, and disclose "[a]s illustrated in FIG. 1, a windshield 10, sun roof 11, and side windows 12 made according to any one of the several phases of the invention can be mounted in an automobile 13 and will appear like ordinary automotive glazings of conventional construction" (column 3, lines 31-35), Mattimoe et al contains no further disclosure with regard to said side windows 12, let alone adhesive layer thickness for this embodiment. Moreover, when a plastic interlayer is present, Mattimoe et al disclose that its thickness may be between 0.015 inches and 0.060 inches (column 3, lines 61-63), which is equivalent to 0.38 mm and 1.52 mm. (Mattimoe et al's disclosure of a plastic interlayer thickness of 0.030 inches (0.76 mm) (column 3, lines 43-44) is with regard to windshield 10 only.) Thus, Mattimoe et al does not recognize any significance with regard to the presently-recited 0.76 mm minimum thickness. The significance of this minimum is shown in the specification, according to the Triplex Laceration Index (TLI) results shown therein. TLI is defined in the specification at page 3, second full paragraph, i.e., the lower the number, the better the results. Example 1, described in the specification beginning at page 8, and the Table at page 9, demonstrates the significance of this minimum. Nor does Mattimoe et al even suggest why one skilled in the art would use a glass-interlayer-glass embodiment for a side window. Indeed, Mattimoe et al disclose specifically that their glass-plastic sun roof 11 may consist of a single sheet of tempered glass 14 (column 3, lines 35-38).

Regarding the so-called "Admitted Prior Art," while certain adhesives are known in the art, Applicants do not admit that one skilled in the art would use these adhesives in the side window of Mattimoe et al.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection over prior art be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. The rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment.

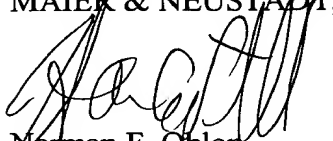
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

The objection to the specification is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

The Examiner is reminded that according to the Notice published in 1156 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 91 (November 23, 1993), and MPEP 609 (8th ed., page 600-119), in PCT national stage applications, when the above Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicates that both the International Search Report and copies of the references cited therein have been received by PTO, the Examiner **will** consider the references and should state for the record that the references have been considered. In view of such form of date December 28, 2000 in this application, **Applicants respectfully solicit the Examiner to consider these references and to explicitly state that for the record.**

All of the presently pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification in the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 12, as follows:

In the context of the use of a glass-adhesive-glass laminate as a side automobile glazing cited previously, patent application EP 0 418 123 A1 describes the improvement of the acoustical abatement properties, obtained through use of an appropriate intercalation of [0,8] 0.8 to 2.0 mm in thickness. This intercalation is a vinyl chloride-glycidyl methacrylate copolymer; certain thermoplastic PU also may be suitable, PVB, on the contrary, being avoided.

IN THE CLAIMS

--12. (Amended) A method of making a anti-laceration automobile side window glazing comprising adhering two sheets of glass adapted to fit an automobile side window with an intercalary adhesive layer, wherein said intercalary adhesive layer has a thickness of more than 0.76 mm.

19. (Amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein said plastic is a polyurethane, which is a thermoplastic polyurethane.

20. (Amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein said plastic is a polyethylene, which is in the form of an ionomer resin.

22. (Amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein said plastic is a thermoplastic polyester, which is a poly(ethylene [terphtalate] terephthalate).

27. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the outer faces of the anti-laceration glazing comprises a plastic sheet.

28. (Amended) An anti-laceration automobile side window glazing produced by the method of Claim 12.

29. (Amended) An automobile comprising the anti-laceration automobile side window glazing of Claim 28.--